



THE DECEMBER MEETING

Once again we welcome our good friend Stan Wood to provide another illustrated lecture in his series on the history of radio communication.

Appropriately, Stan has named it as his Centenary Lecture with the title "The Origins of Radio" which will follow the train of thoughts from the famous Michael Faraday, Oliver Lodge and Guglielmo Marconi.

The meeting opens at 7.30pm in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. The tea break at approximately 9.00pm will include the traditional mince pies, hot or cold as you prefer.

The picture included with this announcement is a reproduction of a photograph in the collection used to illustrate Marconi's experiments after his arrival in England in 1896. It shows an early transmitter which was claimed to have a range of 1¼ miles to a receiver using a coherer to detect Morse Code signals.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3 Dec. VERULAM ARC RALLY - Watford Leisure Centre.
5 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Centenary Marconi Lecture.
Saturday 16th December - CHRISTMAS DINNER.
2 Jan. CLUB MEETING - Annual Film/Video Show.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

As mentioned in the last newsletter our Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday 16th December, its not too late to book, family and friends are welcome. Closing date for tickets will be at the club meeting on Tuesday 5th December, please contact Ela, G6HKM.



INVITATION FROM COLCHESTER



The Colchester Radio Amateurs invite the members of our Society to join them in their annual get-together with other clubs to be held on 14th December at the Colchester Institute from 7.30pm onwards.

If you wish to attend please contact:-

Frank Howe, G3FIJ, 29 Kingswood Road, Colchester, CO4 5JX.

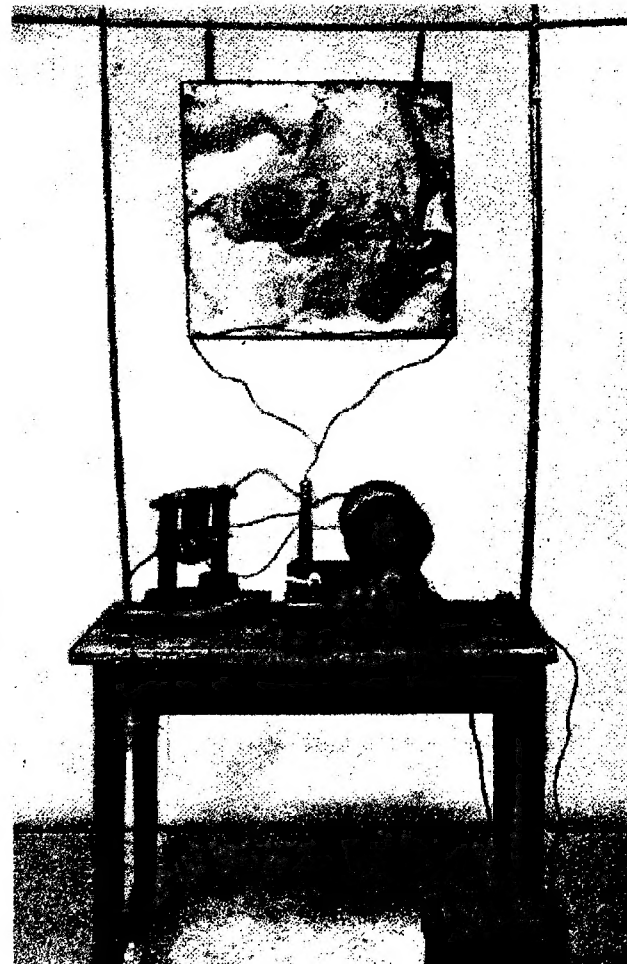
SSTV NET

Are you interested in JVFX, SSTV? Chris, G0IPU is running a net on Thursday evenings at 8.30pm on 28.680MHz.

Roy has received very good pictures from Chris, Charles, G0GJS and Brian, G3CVI. Talk back will also be available on 2M if required for those unable to transmit on 10M. How about joining in the exchange of pictures, its great fun.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - Ela, G6HKM

Thank you to all members who have renewed their subscriptions however there are still a few outstanding, if you are not able to attend the next meeting please send to the address at the end of the newsletter, thank you.



LAST MONTHS MEETING - Brian, G3CVI

Once again your "Hon. Treas." had the pleasure of sitting at the receipt of custom in the Annual Junk Sale and once again we were all pleased by the quantity of goods available.

Truthfully, several items might have performed well as door stops rather than as electronic devices but nevertheless they earned income for the society which is the reason for staging the event.

Having suggested in committee, newsletter and A.G.M. that the minimum bid shall be above the miserable one p level frequently noted in recent years, I was delighted to hear more reasonable sums being called. The few remaining items of a "pure junk" nature were knocked down virtually for 10p and 20p at a time and hence our total takings were improved. The packages of components, so painstakingly sorted by Ela and Roy fetched sensible bids although even then I could have wished for higher sums at "going, going, gone".

At times our two hard working "runners", Dick, G3WHR and Jan G7UVP were handing money to me before the previous change was sorted, the odd item "fell off" the record sheet!! But "no problems" as our continental radio amateurs say; "it is all grit to the mill".

The total net income from the sale of goods in the auction together with "pick and mix" box donations was £152.14p, which compares nicely with the 1994 figure which was £112.

Thank you all for making the evening a resounding success, not forgetting the joker who, with insufficient cash left to bid for one of the reels of wire, said, "well, take a few turns off then".

Finally thank you Colin, G0TRM for a magnificent performance as Auctioneer; you kept the "pot boiling" in a most professional way.

The photograph on Page 2, taken by our Chairman John has captured some of the atmosphere of the evening.



RESTORING OLD RADIOS REVISITED - Geoff, G7KLV

Being an incurable jackdaw, I was easily conned into buying a box of carbon resistors by our glib auctioneer at the recent successful junk sale. He had a beguiling way with him, did our Colin. He'd sell radio gear to the Swiss Navy let alone the Malayan Navy. Just what you need for restoring old radios, said he.

He's also a bit of a clairvoyant! The next day an old River Board colleague phoned to ask if I would repair a family heirloom, he reckoned it was a nineteen fifties job; it had been in his parents' house as far back as he could remember. Probably Octal valves, I thought, so no problem as long as the mains transformer is OK!

It arrived the next day and, after a chat about the good old times before the NRA, I examined this piece of living room furniture.

It was in remarkably good condition. The station dial was the first thing I noticed; I was expecting Home, Light and Forces but this one had BBC Scottish, London R, Nationals, Start Point, Aberdeen, Clevedon and so on. Other medium wave stations were Madona (Latvia), Radios' International, Lyon, and Mediteranee plus many more exotic foreigners. There was a short waveband also; Sydney, Rome, Havana and America together with Amateurs on 7 and 14Mc/s. Long wave had Droitwich and Hilversum on 1850 meters. I am convinced that it is a pre-war set.

Looking in the back through the accumulated dust of ages, the valves didn't look familiar, there were five; 6A7, 78E, 42E, 75 and 80. The first four were on the old American UX six pin bases and the rectifier was a UX four pin; they were all OK.

Switching on, always a bit of a hazard with old sets, it just produced a loud hum but all valves were lighting up. Both the reservoir and the main smoothing electrolytics had dried up together with the replacements which had been connected in parallel. The reservoir capacitor is always a problem with transformer sets and a fairly high voltage applied to the rectifier, this one also had an energised speaker coil used as a smoothing choke. Electrolytics of 8uF with 450 volt surge ratings are becoming hard to come by but I eventually found one. The main smoother is easier to replace and I used a 300uF from an old TV set to replace the original 16uF.

The coupling capacitor from the anode of the audio amplifier to the output valve grid was also in a bad way, causing the output valve anode current to rise somewhat! It is surprising how many old sets have this problem.

There were now definite signs of life and a tweak up all round produced quite acceptable results on all bands. Without a circuit one has to experiment to find out which trimmer does what, but this one gave no problems. A new drive cord, a bit of polish on the cabinet and its now quite a goer but it's a pity about the torn speaker grille!

The makers type number paper label was partly missing so I have no idea of the type number. The Public Library have a good selection of post-war but virtually no pre-war circuits and this one beat them.

I haven't mentioned the maker yet. It was Philco, a name which will be remembered by the older ones amongst us. Philco was an American firm and started to export complete radios to this country in the 'thirties. Apparently their products were more advanced than the home products in those days. The Pye's, the Ekco's, the McMichael's and all the British set makers were not amused. They barred the interloper from the Olympia Radio Show which was organised by their trade association. The parent company, not to be outdone, formed Philco (GB) who opened a factory at Perivale. Shades of things to come many years later! Philco were eventually accepted by the British establishment and after the war were acquired by BRC and Thorn. I believe they have passed into oblivion like so many other famous names.

It all goes to show that you never know just what's round the corner! I won't be deceived by the auctioneer's glib patter in future. It's high voltage electrolytics not carbon resistors which are needed for restoring old radios!

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th December, in Telford Lodge, you are welcome to join us.

MEMBERS NEWS

The Society extends a welcome to Clive Ward, G1EUC and Trevor Hawkins a S.W.L, Trevor moved to Chelmsford a few week ago.

Eddie Henrard, G7TYM has returned to New Zealand but has renewed his membership for this year to keep in touch with C.A.R.S. Eddie is going to be busy as his first task is to build a Log Cabin home.

SEASONS GREETINGS

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,
G3PMX & G6HKM

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